Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

CrosSection

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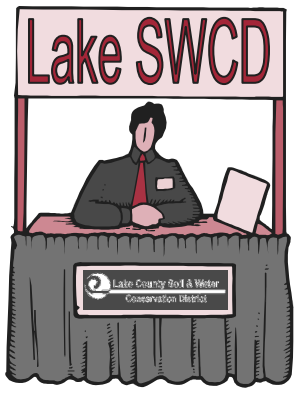
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COME SEE US AT THE FAIR! MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 4.



KEEP YOUR YARD WASTE DRY

CHAD EDGAR, URBAN STREAM SPECIALIST

Spring, summer and fall in Lake County usually keep homeowners busy with mulching, weeding, mowing, raking and many other yard duties. Some relish in the task and enjoy working outside in the fresh air; some would rather install turf grass and be done with the mosquitoes and humidity. Regardless of your inclinations, having a yard means that you have yard waste. Yard waste includes grass clippings, fallen leaves, fallen branches, last year's annuals and maybe even some deposits from man's best friend. What to do with all of this waste? Many prefer to compost these materials to re-use in their flower and vegetable gardens, as these items decompose they create a nutrient rich soil. Others prefer to dispose of them at their curbside; or if no such services exist to drop them off at participating facilities (nurseries or planned community "drop-off" days). All of the above are perfectly acceptable solutions to disposing of yard waste. Do you or anyone you know dispose of yard waste by dumping into a nearby river or stream? Many think that dumping "natural" materials into rivers and streams may actually be helpful. Quite the contrary, yard wastes dumped into water bodies is not an acceptable practice for many reasons.

Piles of grass clippings, leaves and sticks on slopes acts like mulch in our flower beds. This material retains moisture and prevents the growth of vegetation; bare and wet are prime conditions for soil erosion to take place on steep slopes. Once the erosion process begins it is often very difficult and very expensive to stop. Houses and other structures can be put at risk of collapse, and the extra sediment is discharged into the water body. Sediment pollution is not only harmful to fish and aquatic insects, but it also causes flooding, erosion, and drinking water problems. When yard waste is dumped into the river/stream it begins to decompose. The process of decomposition removes the oxygen dissolved in the water necessary for fish and insects who breathe through gills. In addition it adds fine material to the water column which often gets deposited on the floodplains and fills in the pool areas of streams. This results in higher floodwater stages and erosion of streamside property.

SWCD technicians can assist you in how to properly dispose of yard waste. Please contact us at 350-2730 to schedule a site visit.

DON'T BAG IT!

Despite decades of tradition, it is actually good for your lawn to leave the clipping there. The clippings can provide up to 25% of your fertilizer needs. One hundred pounds of grass clippings contain as much as 4 pounds of nitrogen, one pound of phosphorous and three pounds of potassium. Approximately 85% of grass clippings is actually water!

"But I'll get thatch" is the common excuse for bagging clippings. It has been widely assumed that thatch development is caused by leaving clippings on a lawn. However, thatch is more closely related to over-fertilizing (especially with nitrogen) and compaction of the soil. Compaction can be caused by frequent mowing and foot traffic. Pesticides can also kill the organisms that break down the clippings into useful nutrients. Another common cause of thatch problems is mowing more than 1/3 of the height of the grass.

Fallen leaves contain up to 80% of the nutrients the tree drew out of the air and soil. This makes them excellent mulch for flower beds. If you pile your fall leaves and let them weather over the winter, they will be ready for your flower beds by spring. They provide nutrients, keep weeds down, and prevent those April showers from compacting the soil. Just don't keep the pile near a stream or slope!

Saving the Excesses of Summer

Beth Landers, Education Coordinator

The long, warm days of August are measured by things cropping up: roadside produce stands selling sweet corn and tomatoes, back-to-school sales circulars in your mailbox, and those few thistles that you didn't see when you were weeding your flowerbeds last month. But as dawn comes a little later each day, and dusk a little earlier, we are reminded that winter will come again and the bounty of summer will soon be a memory. With the advent of the modern grocery store and its global supply chains, we no longer are required to store food for winter, but somehow those thick-skinned blueberries in their plastic clamshells shipped all the way from Mexico are never quite as satisfying as the ones that came from the Farmers' Market in June. The tomatoes lack a certain essence to their flavor that even the best salsa recipe can't mask. Not to mention you pay through the nose for the privilege of eating them.

Fortunately for us, our ancestors have already gone through the trial and error of learning how to preserve food. Our modern approach to science and technology has made it safer than Grandma's pickle crock in the corner of the basement under the stairs. While we don't *have* to preserve food to avoid starvation, we *can* preserve food in an effort to eat locally, and support our local farmers in the height of the summer growing season. So decide on a favorite family dish, find a farm, pick your produce, and stock up for winter.

Methods for preserving food at home:

Home preservation techniques fall under three general categories: freezing, canning, and dehydrating. Each has its advantages and disadvantages, depending on what you are trying to preserve. One basic rule to follow is never trust an 'old family recipe' from your grandma's great aunt. The same caveat is true for recipes you find on the internet. Be sure that you are using a recipe and method that has been tested and approved by a state Extension program. This will ensure that you are taking all of the necessary precautions to avoid food poisoning.

Freezing: Freezing works by holding food at a low enough temperature to keep spoiling agents from working. It does not kill pathogens – only paralyzes them. Frozen food, once thawed, can still make you ill if not handled properly. Remember to thaw frozen foods in either the refrigerator or the microwave, and use them promptly once they are thawed. And if the electricity goes out, keep the freezer closed. Freezing is probably the easiest way to preserve most fruits and vegetables. For more information check out Freezing Basics, an OSU Extension fact sheet, at http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/5000/5341.html.

Canning: Canning kills pathogens with a combination of acid, sugar, and/or heat. There are numerous recipes for preserving various food products by canning. Remember to find a reliable one and follow it carefully. Cleanliness is very important in the canning process, to minimize the number of pathogens that find their way into the product. The Ohio State University Extension Office recommends the Ball Blue Book, among others, for home canning recipes. For more information on canning, go to http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/5000/5338.html.

Dehydration: Perhaps the oldest of preservation methods, dehydration works by removing the water that pathogens need to grow and multiply. There are excellent home food dehydrators on the market, and if you are going to make a habit of drying your own foods, they can be a great investment. If you don't want to invest in one, many vegetables and fruits can be dried in your oven at a very low setting. The down side to dehydration is that you can't really take advantage of bruised or damaged produce. However, the products are much cheaper than the ones you find in the store, and dehydrated fruits and vegetables can be kept in the pantry.

Food preservation can be an economical way to stretch a grocery budget as well. You can spend $20 on pick-your-own tomatoes, peppers, and onions, add a day of your time and create 30-40 pints of salsa. Pick your own blueberries for $15, freeze them in bags in your freezer, and eat blueberry pancakes all winter. Buy a bushel of apple 'seconds' (the small or asymmetrical ones) to make into applesauce and fruit leathers, and you can extend your ability to "eat local" far beyond the growing season.

Produce to look for in late summer

Green Beans	**Peaches**	**Cucumbers**	**Blackberries**
Blueberries	**Potatoes**	**Bell Peppers**	**Hot Peppers**
Tomatoes	**Eggplant**	**Cabbage**	**Parsnips**
Sweet Corn	**Herbs**	**Turnips**	**Onions**
Beets	**Summer Squash**	**Zucchini**	**Watermelon**
Raspberries	**Bok Choy**	**Apples**	**Lima Beans**
Broccoli	**Cantaloupe**	**Honeydew Melons**	**Carrots**
Salad Greens	**Leeks**	**Okra**	**Radishes**

You're Invited!
Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District 62nd Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 30, 2008
DeRubertis Party Center
6521 North Ridge Rd., Madison

6:00	Polls Open
6:00	Social Hour, Cash Bar
7:00	Buffet Dinner
7:30	Polls Close
7:45	Business Meeting
8:00	Feature Presentation
8:45	Recognition and Awards
9:00	Door Prizes

Feature Presentation

Great Door Prizes courtesy of Lake County Nurseries and Businesses

RSVP no later than Thursday, October 23, 2008
Return the attached form to: Lake SWCD, 125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077
Or call: 440-350-2730

Yes, I will attend! Enclosed is my payment of $???? per person, payable to Lake SWCD.
Reservations are pre-paid only and tickets will be held at the door.

Name_____ Guest's Name(s)_____

Address_____City_____

Phone_____e-mail_____

Total # attending_____

New Natural Resources Building at the Fairgrounds

Dan Donaldson, District Administrator

The last two years have brought many changes to the Lake County Fairgrounds: State Route 20 has undergone major renovations in the area, A new fairgrounds entrance has been established as well as new offices for the Lake County Fair Board, and last but not least, there is a new display area for the Soil and Water Conservation District – the Natural Resources Building.

The new Natural Resources Building will be the long-term display area for the Lake SWCD and many parting natural resource related agencies and organizations. It is located at the northwest corner of the fairgrounds near the 4-H, Animal buildings, and Lake Metroparks tents which makes it a great area to have all of our natural resource and environmental organizations display together.

This year look for displays from Lake SWCD, Lake County General Health District, ODNR Div of Wildlife, Scenic Rivers, Grand River Partners, Chagrin River Partners, and other natural resource-related local organizations and clubs.

PICTURES GO HERE

Rain Garden Workshop Scheduled

Have you heard people talking about rain gardens? Wondering about a strange, slightly sunken flowerbed you've seen recently? Want to know how you can help decrease stormwater pollution?

The Lake County Stormwater Department and Lake SWCD are hosting a rain garden workshop this fall. It will be held September 11th at 7:00 PM the District office, 125 E. Erie St. in Painesville. To reserve a seat, call 440-350-5900 by September 5th

Election of Supervisors to be Held

The Election for two Board Supervisors, each to serve a term of three years from 2009 through 2011, will be conducted by the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

Polls will be open on October 30th from 6:00 PM—7:30 PM at DeRubertis Party Center in Madison. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to vote in the election, there are two ways to vote. You may contact the District Office after October 9th to receive an application for an absentee ballot. Applications must be returned in a timely manner to receive an official absentee ballot. Votes may also be cast at the District office during normal business hours between October 9th and October 30th at 11:00. Voters must be Lake County residents or landowners and be 18 years or older.

For more information, call the District office at 350-2730.

Poster Series Focuses on Household Sources of Water Pollution

The tricky thing about non-point source pollution is that it is not under just one person's control. A plastic bag floating down the Grand River could have drifted down from Harpersfield, Madison, Perry, Concord, or Painesville. While someone might be able to identify which store it came from, we don't know who left it to wash downstream. Because of this, education and community involvement are both important parts of fixing non-point source pollution problems.

According to a National Environmental Education and Training Foundation report published in 2005, only 22% of the American public know that polluted runoff from agricultural fields, and the streets and lawns of our urban and suburban areas is the primary pollutant in our waters. Almost half believe that most water pollution problems come from industry. While this may have been true 40 years ago, stricter regulations on manufacturing have shifted the primary source of water pollution from our factories to our front yards. This means that you play an important role in determining how clean our rivers and our beaches are. Therefore public education remains an important tool in returning our waters to the ideals set by the Clean Water Act - that our surface waters should be "fishable and swimmable" and able to be enjoyed by all of us.

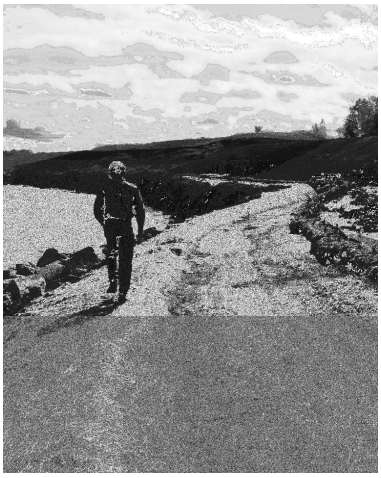
This year, the Lake County Stormwater Management Department is using a series of amusing images to emphasize the point that what each individual does affects the watersheds we all share. These materials are placed in approximately 35 poster displays throughout Lake County. They have been placed in city halls, community centers, libraries, and in county office buildings.

Remember, non-point source pollution starts with individual people making individual choices. That means that preventing non-point source pollution starts with you.

Lake County - Leading in Stormwater Management

Paul Bowyer, Stormwater Specialist

Lake County is a leader when it comes to stormwater management, both in terms of the water quality results achieved, and for the way our county is delivering stormwater management services.



In 1999, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a mandate pursuant to the Clean Water Act requiring smaller municipalities and urban areas to improve water quality. The resulting rules, known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II regulations, imposed six "minimum control measures" which are targeted at improving water resources. Each community is obligated to adopt and execute these minimum measures,

The six minimum control measures include:

1. **Public Education and Outreach**
   Providing and sponsoring stormwater awareness education opportunities for the general public and specialized training for target groups such as contractors.
2. **Public Involvement and Participation**
   Allows and encourages to general public to be involved in the development and implementation of the Stormwater programs.
3. **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**
   Establishes a program to monitor and eliminate discharges to waterways that are not comprised of 100% stormwater; such as: effluent from septic systems, petroleum product spills and releases, impacts from improper disposal of household chemicals, concrete washout, etc.
4. **Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control**
   Establishes a program to reduce the quantity of eroded soils, sediment, and other pollutants sourced from construction sites (earth disturbing activities) that get into the stormwater system and waterways.
5. **Post-Construction Stormwater Runoff Control**
   Establishes a program to permanently reduce the quantity of sediment and pollutants that are sourced from developed areas (after construction is completed). Essentially requires permanent stormwater filtering practices to be implemented for developed areas.
6. **Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping**
   Establishes a program that requires local government facilities and agencies to examine, monitor, and subsequently reduce the quantity of pollutants entering waterways sourced from their own facilities and practices.

In Lake County, a Stormwater Utility was created to coordinate the implementation of the required control measures and to fund stormwater infrastructure projects as needed in subscribing communities. While most Lake County communities have chosen to join the Stormwater Utility, a few municipalities have evaluated their needs and decided that the municipality can fulfill its stormwater obligations on its own. The Lake County Soil & Water District works with the Stormwater Management Department and with non-member municipalities to deliver important components of the required stormwater programs. The SWCD's main stormwater roles are the administration of the county's and several municipalities Erosion and Sediment Control rules (control measure #4) and participation in pollution prevention activities and involvement in public education (control measures #1 and 2).

For the areas covered by the stormwater utility, The Stormwater Department has partnered with the Lake County General Health District and the Lake County Soil & Water District to implement the six control measures by utilizing many of the Counties existing resources. The following chart lists the six required minimum control measures and the partner agency(s) primarily responsible for its implementation.

Water Quality Goal	County agencies meeting goal
Public Education and Outreach	Stormwater, Health, Soil &Water
Public Involvement and Participation	Stormwater, Health, Soil &Water
Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination	Health
Construction Site Erosion Runoff Control	Soil & Water
Post-construction Stormwater Runoff Control	Stormwater
Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping	Stormwater, Health
Capital Improvement Projects	Stormwater

By utilizing this partnership approach to stormwater management implementation, Lake County is meeting its required stormwater goals and keeping the capitol cost at a reasonable level. This approach has established Lake County as a leader in stormwater management in Ohio.

Lake County Soil & Water
Conservation District
125 East Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

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Who Wants To Be a Conservationist?

For the summer, we will stick (mostly) with the bug theme,. This time, you will match the pollinator with the plant. Some pollinators may pollinate more than one plant, and some plants may attract several pollinators.

1. Peppers
2. Alfalfa
3. Corn
4. Strawberries
5. Apples
6. Timothy Grass
7. Tomatoes
8. Trumpet Vine
9. Blackberries
10. Bee Balm
11. Cherries
12. Peaches
13. Bananas
14. Evening Primrose
15. Pumpkins
16. Beans
17. Domesticated Grapes
18. Onions
19. Magnolia
20. Eggplant
21. Elderberry
22. Butterfly Bush

A) Bat
B) Bee
C) Beetle
D) Bird
E) Butterfly
F) Fly
G) Moth
H) Wind
I) Self

Answers:
1. B, F
2. B
3. H
4. B
5. B, F
6. H
7. B
8. D
9. B
10. D, E
11. B, I
12. B, I
13. A
14. G
15. C, F
16. B, I
17. I
18. B, F
19. C
20. B
21. C
22. E

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077
•440-350-2730 (main number) •FAX 440-350-2601
Toll-free •428-4348 ext. 2730 Madison/Perry
•918-2730 Cleveland/Western Lake County
•1-800-899-LAKE ext 2730 outside Lake County only
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-4:00 pm
•E-mail: soil@lakecountyohio.org
•Web site: www.lakecountyohio.org/soil

Paul Bowyer, Stormwater Specialist	350-2092
Pam Brown, District Secretary/Treasurer	350-2041
Dan Donaldson, District Administrator	350-2030
Chad Edgar, Urban Stream Specialist	350-2032
Beth Landers, Education/Information Coordinator	350-2033
Maurine Orndorff, Agricultural Programs Technician	350-5863
Matthew Scharver, Resource Protection Specialist	350-2031
Al Bonnis, District Conservationist, NRCS	437-5888
John Niedzialek, Western Reserve RC&D Coordinator	350-2034

Member of:
• American Farmland Trust •Lake County Farm Bureau
• Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio
•National Association of Conservation Districts
•Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

An Equal Opportunity Employer: All Lake SWCD and USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

The public is invited to attend Lake SWCD's monthly Board meetings, held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the News-Herald and on the Lake SWCD website. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending.